

Utah Domestic Violence Related Deaths 2007

An Ongoing Public Information Report of the Utah Domestic Violence Council



This report has been reviewed and approved for public distribution by the Utah Domestic Violence Council. Any printed or broadcast use of information from this report must include the following statement: “To be listed in this report, case specific information must demonstrate a correlation between domestic violence and the death of the victim as demonstrated by corroborating public information. These troubling statistics document, in summary form, the broad scope and tragic impact of domestic violence in Utah. From public information available, each listed death shows domestic violence¹ between 1) cohabitants,² 2) persons in dating relationships or 3) family members not defined within the cohabitant statute.”

The Utah Domestic Violence Council compiles and continually updates information on domestic violence related deaths. Information contained in this report was gathered from public sources; largely from newspapers and from the electronic media. Once cases have resulted in official governmental action, the committee may refer to publicly available information from law enforcement, prosecution offices and/or the Utah State Courts.

While virtually all homicides are covered in the public media, and are therefore included in this report, the majority of suicides not related to a criminal event are not so covered. Accordingly, it is probable that a number of domestic violence related suicides were not learned of by the compilers of this report and are not included in the report. That assumption is supported by information compiled by the Utah State Department of Health from confidential sources.

For more information contact the Utah Domestic Violence Council at (801) 521-5544.

DATE OF DEATH	NAME, AGE, SITUATION, RELATIONSHIP	PLACE OF DEATH
<p>January 6, 2007 #1 & 2</p>	<p>Dustin Keith Riley, Age 26 and Andrea Riley, Age 27, Domestic Violence Related Suicides or Murder/Suicide</p> <p>Dustin and Andrea were killed in an explosion and intense fire that engulfed an SUV parked behind a convenience store in downtown Salt Lake City. The two were or had been married; media information is unclear as to whether they had divorced. Surveillance video obtained by Salt Lake City Police from the convenience store showed Dustin spraying gasoline into the interior of the SUV from a gas pump. Andrea stood next to him and watched as he did so. The two then got into the SUV, which was then driven to the rear of the store. Moments later the whole area was shaken by a large explosion. The SUV was immediately engulfed in flames. A Salt Lake City police officer who was nearby and heard the explosion was unable to douse the flames with a fire extinguisher. Based upon the video and upon witness statements, it appears that both individuals voluntarily got back into the vehicle after its interior was sprayed with gasoline. Police concluded from their investigation that the deaths were the result of a double suicide. No suicide note was found during the investigation.</p> <p>UDVC determined to include these deaths in its list of DV related deaths because one of the deceased persons certainly ignited the explosion. Accordingly, the person who touched off the explosion committed a Cohabitant Homicide and the other was a victim, albeit perhaps willingly, of that violent act.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, January 7, 8 & 9, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, January 7 & 8, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake City Salt Lake County</p>
<p>January 15, 2007 #3</p>	<p>Yuki Yoshida, Age 26, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>Yuki was an aspiring Japanese musician and modern jazz fan. Yu-Shang Lin was her mysterious benefactor - an older Chinese businessman who offered a salacious deal. Their story began in a Tokyo night club in the spring or summer of 2006 and climaxed in January of 2007 at a scenic overlook of Utah's Monument Valley. There, investigators for the National Park Service (NPS) say, Lin pointed a sports-utility vehicle toward the edge of a cliff, pushed the accelerator and steered over the ledge to kill them both. A National Park Service report released in December of 2007 ruled the case a murder-suicide - and described the relationship which eventually took the couple over the cliff.</p> <p>Shortly after they first met in Japan, according to the NPS report, they "began a romantic relationship with the understanding Lin would pay Yuki's expenses to attend music school in the U.S.A. in exchange for sexual favors." In August 2006, Yuki enrolled in the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. Schoolmates said Yoshida described Lin as her "sponsor" who paid her school and living expenses, said a Boston police detective who investigated her life there. According to the Boston detective, Yuki soon began seeing a boyfriend she met at school. Her family knew nothing of her relationship with Lin and thought she was working in Boston.</p> <p>In December of 2006, Lin traveled to the United States to meet Yuki for a traveling holiday. But something happened during the trip: Yuki no longer wanted a relationship under the previous terms. Yuki's Berklee friends told investigators she decided she no longer wanted to "engage in sexual activities and renege on their agreement," the Park Service wrote. The NPS report says that Lin sexually assaulted Yuki during this visit. On January 7, 2007, Yuki returned to Boston and Lin returned to Japan three days thereafter. Almost immediately after arriving in Japan, Lin telephoned and apologized to Yuki. He said he wanted to renegotiate their deal, and offered \$20,000 to Yuki if she would meet him in Monument Valley, according to the NPS report. Yuki agreed.</p>	<p>Muley Point San Juan County</p>

	<p>The two met in Las Vegas on January 13th then drove to Monument Valley. They spent the night of January 14th at Goulding's Lodge, just north of the Utah/Arizona state line. The NPS report indicates that photographs and other circumstances suggest that Lin may have sexually assaulted Yuki again that night. On January 15, they drove north to Muley Point, a plateau giving a fantastic view of the valley some 1,200 feet below. They arrived in the afternoon, parked his rented vehicle in a dirt lot facing the cliff and got out and looked around. The pair posed for photographs before returning to the vehicle. No one saw what happened next, but investigators say tire tracks and other signs at the scene show that Lin, with Yuki in the passenger seat beside him, put the vehicle in gear and drove straight toward the cliff about 100 feet away. The vehicle's doors and windows were locked. Investigators say it appears Yuki's final moments were spent crawling from the front into the rear passenger seats. The vehicle hurled off the canyon rim, crashed head first on a ledge about 60 feet below the canyon rim, flipped onto the roof and came to its final resting spot on the ledge. It's believed Yuki and Lin died instantly. An NPS employee found the wreck 12 days later while hiking. The Park Service found no evidence that Yuki participated willingly in her death. She was to have returned to Boston the day after she was killed.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, December 24, 2007; KUTV.com, 12-26-07; National Park Service Criminal Incident Report.</i></p>	
January 15, 2007 #4	<p>Yu-Shang Lin, Age 66, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	Muley Point San Juan County
January 23, 2007 #5	<p>Lisa Pouha, Age 40, Cohabitant Homicide At about 1:15 a.m. one of Lisa's neighbors awoke to the sound of a woman screaming, "Help me! Somebody, please come help me!" The neighbor looked out the window and saw Lisa on the ground near the end of a driveway next door. A man was stabbing her "a whole lot," she said. "I could see her screaming . . . I watched him kill her." By the time police arrived, Lisa was dead, having suffered multiple stab wounds to the chest. Neighbors identified her husband, Sione Talanoa, as the killer. He was found several blocks away and was arrested without further incident by Salt Lake City police officers. A police report indicates the couple had been arguing about getting separated and about allegations by Talanoa that Lisa was having an affair. When Talanoa was arrested, police located a drug pipe in his pocket and he told them he used it for smoking methamphetamine and had done so two hours prior to coming to Lisa's home.</p> <p>Lisa and Talanoa had a history of domestic violence, according to police. A check of jail records shows Talanoa was arrested on December 15, 2006 for investigation of domestic battery, destruction of property and drug paraphernalia. In that incident, Talanoa is accused of punching Lisa in the face and leaving red scratch marks, slashing her tires and doing other damage to her vehicle. That incident was scheduled for a pre-trial hearing in Salt Lake City Justice Court on February 1, 2007.</p> <p>The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Talanoa with Murder, a first degree felony. On November 7, 2007, Talanoa plead guilty as charged and, on December 17, 2007, was sentenced by the Third Judicial District Court to serve a term of 15 years to life in the Utah State Prison. Under Utah's indeterminate sentencing structure it will be up to the Board of Pardons to determine when or if Talanoa will be released from prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC4.com, January 23, 2007; KSL.com, January 23, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, January 23, 24, 25 & 27, April 20, November 7 and December 18, 2007; Deseret News, January 24 & 28, 2007.</i></p>	Salt Lake City Salt Lake County

<p>March 26, 2007 #6</p>	<p>Name Unavailable, Age 47, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>A Salt Lake City woman died as a result of smoke inhalation, suffered during a fire she had apparently set in her own apartment. Police had responded to the apartment late on the evening of March 25th in connection with a domestic dispute between the woman and her husband. Following the police visit the husband left. About three hours later the woman apparently set fire to some of the husbands belongings. After the fire was extinguished firefighters found the woman in a back bedroom; not breathing and with no pulse. She had not suffered any burns. Emergency personnel were able to revive the woman and she was taken to a hospital where she died the next day as a result of her fire related injuries.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, March 26, 2007; Deseret News, March 29, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, March 28, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake City Salt Lake County</p>
<p>April 6, 2007 #7</p>	<p>Nathan Harris, Age 24, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Nathan and his girlfriend, Monika Ann Dilmaghanian, had a tendency to argue, a family member said. "She would really get mad at him for really no reason," said Nathan's stepfather, although he said he had never seen them get violent with each other. Police say there was one last argument Friday before Dilmaghanian fatally stabbed Nathan at a campground in northeast Weber County.</p> <p>The couple had lived together in an Ogden apartment. His stepfather had heard Nathan express his love for Dilmaghanian. On the afternoon of Nathan's death, the couple and Dilmaghanian's three children, ages 8, 9 and 12, had gone to a park near Causey Reservoir for an outing. They parked at the gate and hiked in because the park was still closed for the winter. While in the park they began to argue. The stabbing occurred as the couple was walking back toward the car and was witnessed by the three children. Statements made by law enforcement to the media shortly after Dilmaghanian's arrest suggested an unprovoked attack. In affidavits made public a few days later in connection with the filing of criminal charges, however, Dilmaghanian stated that Nathan had twice pushed her down and had verbally threatened to kill her. Following the attack, Dilmaghanian left Nathan on the ground and drove away with the children. She came upon a U.S. Forest Service employee whom she flagged down and told she had just stabbed her boyfriend. Nathan was dead by the time deputies found him.</p> <p>The Weber County Attorney charged Dilmaghanian with Murder, a first degree felony, and with three counts of Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child, all third degree felonies. On August 1, 2007, Dilmaghanian plead guilty to the Murder charge, upon which the county attorney moved for dismissal of the other three charges. On September 19, 2007, Dilmaghanian was sentenced by the Second Judicial District Court to serve a term of 15 years to life in the Utah State Prison. Under Utah's indeterminate sentencing structure it will be up to the Board of Pardons to determine when or if she will be released from prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, April 7, 8 & 10, August 4, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, April 7, 9 & 11, September 21, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Causey Reservoir Weber County</p>
<p>April 7, 2007 #8</p>	<p>Kara Hopkins, Age 15, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>Kara was shot in the head by her 18 year old boyfriend, Parley Jeffs Dutson, during a party at a West Jordan apartment. According to Kara's mother, the two had dated for about a year, having met in St. George while Dutson lived there. The mother said Dutson had come to her home for dinner on most Sundays prior to the killing. "He was a good guy," she told reporters. "He's always been great to [Kara]. He's always treated her with respect. And me, too." The mother said she knew Dutson well and never knew him to use drugs or be around guns. She did say a friend of Dutson's had kept a handgun in Dutson's apartment.</p>	<p>West Jordan Salt Lake County</p>

	<p>In the early hours of April 7th, Kara, Dutson and several other individuals were partying. According to a search warrant affidavit filed with the Third Judicial District Court, at "About 2:00 a.m. her boyfriend, Parley Jeffs Dutson, pushed her against a wall, telling her to have sex with him in front of others at the party. [Kara] resisted Dutson's advances. He then tried to remove her clothing. When she continued to resist, he pulled a black revolver from his pants and pointed it at her, witnesses told police. As she tried to hide behind a friend, Dutson shot [Kara] in the back of the head. [Kara] fell, her face striking a coffee table, knocking out one of her teeth. Witnesses said Dutson followed her to the floor and continued to try to remove her clothing." The sexual attack allegedly continued until apartment security guards arrived. Kara's mother told reporters that Dutson was "high on hallucinogenic mushrooms" at the time of the assault. However, a narcotics expert told the media that mushrooms do not cause violent outbursts. "A handful of mushrooms is not an excuse for pointing a gun at someone and pulling the trigger," said the retired narcotics officer.</p> <p>The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Dutson with Murder and Aggravated Sexual Assault, both first degree felonies. On July 1, 2008, at the end of a jury trial in the Third Judicial District Court, the jury found Dutson guilty of both charges. In May of 2009, based upon the failure of a juror to disclose that she had been raped when she was a teenager, the court vacated the conviction and granted Dutson's motion for a new trial. On September 1, 2009, Dutson plead guilty to Murder. Upon motion of the state, the charge of Aggravated Sexual Assault was dismissed. On December 9, 2009, Dutson was sentenced to a term of 15 years to life in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, April 7, 9, 10 & 12 and June 21, 2007, May 28, Sept. 1 and Dec. 9, 2009; Deseret News, April 8, 10 & 13, 2007; KSL.com, April 10, 2007; records of the Third Judicial District Court.</i></p>	
August 29, 2007 #9	<p>Kimberly Burnette, Age 41, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Just before noon the bodies of Kimberly and of her husband, Matthew Keller, were discovered in a motel room in Bicknell. The couple had been living in the hotel for about a month while they worked at local construction jobs. Both persons had died as a result of gunshot wounds. Based upon evidence gathered at the scene, officers of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office determined that the deaths occurred sometime during the night of August 28-29. Law enforcement was unable to locate any witnesses who had seen the couple the night before their deaths or who had heard argument or gunshots. Both bodies were sent to the Utah Medical Examiner for forensic autopsies. The autopsies confirmed that both deaths resulted from gunshot wounds and revealed that both persons were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their respective deaths. Following the autopsies, based upon the evidence discovered in the motel room and the findings of the Medical Examiner, the Wayne County Attorney's Office and the Wayne County Sheriff's Office determined that Keller killed Kimberly by shooting her in the head at near contact range. Keller then turned the gun on himself. The Sheriff and the County Attorney specifically ruled out a double suicide scenario.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, August 30, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, August 30 & November 20, 2007; Written findings of the Wayne County Attorney's Office, November 8, 2007.</i></p>	Bicknell Wayne County
August 29, 2007 #10	<p>Matthew Keller, Age 42, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	Bicknell Wayne County

<p>October 3, 2007 #11</p>	<p>Lynn A. Richards, Age 52, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>When a home improvement contractor came to the Richards' upscale Draper home on Thursday, October 4th to work on some pre-arranged home improvements he found no one home. Upon entering the home he found no one there and, because things did not look right, he contacted police. During a search of the house Draper police found the bodies of Lynn and her husband, Daniel H. Richards (Richards) in an upstairs bedroom. Lynn had suffered several shots in her head and upper body. Richards' body had one, apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, according to a police spokesman. Police recovered two handguns.</p> <p>On the evening of Wednesday, October 3rd, a worker in the house called 911 to report a dispute, said a police spokesman. By the time police arrived minutes later, the worker was gone and all was quiet. Officers knocked, and nobody answered, so the officers left. "That can be a real gray area - when you go to a place and you can't get an answer and there's no other obvious circumstance that would tell you someone's in danger," said the spokesman. The spokesman said he wished officers had entered the home. "But that's all in hindsight."</p> <p>Other than the report on October 3rd, police have no record of domestic problems between the couple. None of the neighbors reported having been aware of any previous domestic problems.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, October 4, 2007; KUTV.com, October 4, 2007; Deseret News, October 5, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, October 5, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Draper Salt Lake County</p>
<p>October 3, 2007 #12</p>	<p>Daniel H. Richards, Age 55, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	<p>Draper Salt Lake County</p>
<p>October 3, 2007 #13</p>	<p>Patricia Lee Rothermich, Age 64, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>At about 3:30 p.m., Patricia was struck from behind by a vehicle while walking for exercise on a narrow, wooded roadway in her Holiday neighborhood. She was found laying partially in the bushes along the road and died of her injuries en route to a hospital. Patricia had been walking on the left side of the road so as to face on-coming traffic. Because she was struck from behind, whoever hit her would have had to swerve all the way across the two lane street.</p> <p>Following Patricia's death her husband, Sherman Alexander Lynch III, appeared personally on local media asking for the person who had hit his wife to have the decency to turn him/herself in. After Lynch those appearances, detectives were contacted by a female identifying herself as Lynch's girlfriend. The girlfriend told detectives that she was with Lynch in August when he purchased a 1993 white Chevrolet pickup. The girlfriend said she was unaware that Lynch was married. Two days after the collision sheriff's deputies, responding to a call from a property owner, found Lynch's pickup in the garage of an abandoned house about one mile from Lynch's home. The pickup had front end damage that was consistent with the evidence found at the scene of the crash.</p> <p>After finding the pickup police questioned Lynch as to whether he had anything to do with his Patricia's death. He denied any involvement. When the police told him, "We have the pickup," Lynch asked for a lawyer. The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Lynch with Murder, a first degree felony, and Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony. On November 14, 2008, following a jury trial in the Third Judicial District Court, the jury returned verdicts of guilty on both charges. On January 26, 2009, Lynch was sentenced to serve a term of 15 years to life on the Murder charge and of 1-15 years on the Obstruction of Justice Charge. The court ordered that the sentences run consecutively.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, October 3, 4 & 8, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, October 3, 6, 8 & 11, 2007; January 26, 2009; Deseret News, October 8 & 10, 2007; records of the Third Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>

<p>October 4, 2007 #14</p>	<p>Crystal Tijerina, Age 23, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>On October 4, 2007, the Springville Police Department released information to the media that it was looking for Tijerina. The report indicated that she had left her parents home and that she may be armed and suicidal. Later that night Tijerina showed up at her ex-husband's home in Salt Lake City. Police were called when she first appeared at the husband's place of residence. "When we arrived there the first time she had already departed," explained a Salt Lake City Police spokesman. "We attempted to locate her and couldn't find her. Officers were still in the area. About thirty minutes later, we received a call from a neighbor that she had returned. There was some information that gunshots had been heard or fired." When police officers arrived at the husband's home the second time they found that he had been shot in the neck. Tijerina was found dead at the scene. After shooting and wounding her ex-husband, Tijerina had turned the gun on herself. The husband was taken to a hospital where he was treated and released.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, October 5, 2007; KSL.com, October 4, 2007 & October 5, 2007, 7:25 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.;</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake City Salt Lake County</p>
<p>October 17, 2007 #15</p>	<p>Alefonsio Scanlan, Age 55, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>Kathy Scanlan was awakened in the early morning hours when her husband, Alefonsio Scanlan (Scanlan), stabbed her in her chest. After the attack ended and Scanlan had left the bedroom, Kathy got to a telephone inside her house and made a call to 911 just before 2:00 a.m. In the recording of the 911 call Kathy can be heard saying, "My husband has stabbed me. I'm barely awake. I need help immediately. ... He has stabbed me in the heart." The dispatcher responds by asking, "Your husband has stabbed you?" "Yes," Kathy says, "I believe I'm dying." She didn't know where Scanlan was when she was calling, trying to make it downstairs. She did know that he had tried to kill her. "I think he was trying to stab me in the heart," she tells the dispatcher. "He used some kind of knife." Kathy told the dispatcher she was dying and that police would have to break into the house as she was too weak to get to the door.</p> <p>When police arrived at the Scanlan residence they found Kathy lying on the staircase with two stab wounds to her chest. She was immediately transported to a hospital for medical treatment. Kathy survived and recovered from her wounds. Upon going through the house, police found Scanlan's body in another bedroom. He had stabbed himself once in the heart. Police have been unable to determine a motive for the attack. There was no known history of domestic violence between the couple.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, October 17, 2007; Deseret News, October 17 & 18, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, October 17, 2007.</i></p>	<p>Sandy Salt Lake County</p>
<p>December 1, 2007 #16</p>	<p>Timothy McEnaney, Age 30, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>At about 5:00 p.m. Mark Erickson walked into a Beaver restaurant where his ex-wife, Danielle Olsen, was having dinner with Timothy. With no warning, Erickson walked up to the couple, pulled a small caliber handgun and shot Timothy twice, once in the head and once in the chest. Timothy died shortly thereafter as a result of his wounds. After the shooting Erickson immediately left the restaurant, got into his vehicle and drove away. After receiving a tip, officers of the Beaver County Sheriff's Office later found Erickson in a remote area some five miles north of Beaver. He surrendered and was arrested without incident.</p> <p>Court documents paint a picture of Erickson as a man jealous over Danielle's decision to dine with Timothy, a man with whom she had "engaged in a prior relationship." According to court documents, Danielle agreed to meet Timothy for dinner. Danielle told police she had been living with Erickson for the past 30 days, and the two had been trying to reconcile. Erickson, having his daughter and step-daughter with him, traced Danielle and Timothy to the restaurant after he had visited her workplace and a co-worker told him she had gone to dinner</p>	<p>Beaver Beaver County</p>

	<p>with Timothy. Leaving the two children in the pickup, which he had parked so that they could not see him fight with their mother, Erickson entered the diner and committed the killing.</p> <p>The Beaver County Attorney's Office filed a charge of Aggravated Murder, a capitol felony, against Erickson. On July 10, 2008, Erickson accepted a plea offer made by the county attorney and entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Aggravated Murder after the county attorney agreed not to seek the death penalty. On September 17, 2008, Erickson was sentenced by the Fifth Judicial District Court to serve a term of 20 years to life in the Utah State Prison. He will not be eligible for parole until 2027, at which time it will be up to the Board of Pardons to determine when or if he will ever be released.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, December 2 & 17, 2007; The Spectrum, December 3, 2007; The Salt Lake Tribune, December 3, 4 & 5, 2007, July 12, 2008 and September 18, 2007; The Deseret News, December 3, 4 & 6, 2007.</i></p>	
December 21, 2007 #17	<p>Manuel Saucedo, Age 21, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Shortly after midnight Manuel was shot and killed in the Orem residence. A roommate, Raul Brito, has been named a suspect in the killing. Manuel was drinking with Brito at their house when he was shot with a handgun, an Orem police statement said. Other residents of the house, including two families and several unrelated males, were sleeping and were awakened by the gunshot, the statement said. The residents found Manuel in a pool of blood. They saw Brito run from the house and leave in his pickup truck. The gun was found near Manuel's body, the police statement said. According to witness statements given to police, the last any of the other residents of the house knew, the two were having a good time. No motive for the shooting has been determined. The Utah County Attorney's Office charged Brito with Murder, a 1st degree Felony. The Fourth Judicial District Court issued a warrant for Brito's arrest, setting bail at \$400,000. As of January 8, 2009, Brito had not been taken into custody.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, December 22 & 24, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, December 24 & 25, 2007; KSL.com, December 23 & 24, 2007; Records of the Fourth Judicial District Court.</i></p>	Orem Utah County
December 30, 2007 #18	<p>Benjamin Thomas, Age 60, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>Sarah Thomas was taken to a hospital in critical condition after her estranged husband, Benjamin Thomas (Thomas), attacked her with a knife, stabbing her multiple times in the neck and chest. Sarah managed to escape to a neighbor's apartment where the neighbor called 911 for help. Sarah was rushed to a hospital where she underwent emergency surgery. Despite the critical nature of her injuries, she is expected to survive. Following his attack on Sarah, Thomas hanged himself in the carport of the apartment complex. Police have been unable to determine a motive for the attack but say the couple has a history of domestic disputes.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC4.com, December 30, 2007; KSL.com, December 30 & 31, 2007; Salt Lake Tribune, 12-31-07.</i></p>	Salt Lake County
<p style="text-align: right;">COHABITANT HOMICIDES: 5 PERPETRATOR SUICIDES: 6 DATING RELATIONSHIP HOMICIDES: 2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDE: 1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED SUICIDE: 2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATH: 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS IN UTAH DURING 2007: 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NUMBER OF DV RELATED DEATHS CAUSED BY THE USE OF A FIREARM: 8 A TOTAL OF 5 CHILDREN WERE PRESENT AT 2 OF THE ABOVE LISTED DEATHS.</p>		

1. Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 2.1 Domestic Violence Means

- Any criminal offense involving
 - violence
 - physical harm
 - threat** of violence or physical harm

Any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving
-violence or physical harm

When committed by one **cohabitant** against another

Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 1 Domestic Violence also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another

aggravated assault
assault
criminal homicide
harassment
telephone harassment
kidnapping, child kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping
mayhem (mutilation of a body part)
sexual offenses
-unlawful sexual intercourse
-rape
object rape
sodomy-forcible sodomy
forcible sexual abuse
aggravated sexual assault
sexual exploitation of a minor
stalking
unlawful detention
violation of a protective order
offenses against property (theft is not a domestic violence offense)
possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault
discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building or vehicle
disorderly conduct if conviction result of plea negotiation from an original DV offense
child witnessing DV child abuse
any other criminal offense involving violence or physical harm

2. Under Utah Title 30, Chapter 6, Section 1: the Cohabitant Abuse Act, a cohabitant is defined as:

- (2) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated person pursuant to Section 15-2-1 or a person who is 16 years of age or older who:
 - (a) is or was a spouse of the other party;
 - (b) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;
 - (c) is related by blood or marriage to the other party;
 - (d) has one or more children in common with the other party;
 - (e) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child; or
 - (f) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party.
- (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), "cohabitant" does not include:
 - (a) The relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or
 - (b) The relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18 years of age.